



VOTE NO ON SB 6668 & SB 1178

Acme Wire Products Co., Inc.
Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee
Hartford, CT
March 9, 2023
Testifying in opposition to:

SB 6668: An Act Modernizing the Paid Sick Day Statutes SB 1178: An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days

Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Mary Fitzgerald and I am the President of Acme Wire Products Co., Inc. We have been in business for 53 years and employ 50 employees. **I am writing today in opposition to SB 6668 and SB 1178.**

Connecticut currently has a paid sick leave law that applies to businesses with 50 or more employees that employ a list of occupations called 'service workers'. Service workers can earn 1 hour of paid leave for each 40 hours worked, maxing out at 40 hours per year. The law also exempts manufacturers and certain non-profits.

Both SB 6668 and SB 1178 would extend the program to every employee at every employer in the state, expand the number of family members eligible, eliminate exemptions for manufacturers and non-profits, and provide penalties for failure to keep accurate records.

Extending the paid leave program to every employer in the state, at a time when we are coming out of a global pandemic, is shortsighted and yet another burden to businesses small and large. Between supply chain and workforce shortages, inflation and rising healthcare costs, we are already doing all we can to keep up with a difficult business environment.

Since taking effect in 2012, those subject to the new law saw a cost increase of 2-5%, and there is no tangible data that shows less employee turnover or illness in the workplace. The additional leave recording requirements and penalties for inaccurate or non-reporting of employee leave would impose onerous non-productive costs on employers.

Why are we doing this to Connecticut businesses? We are the backbone to our economy and workforce and put our employees at the forefront of everything we do. Connecticut already has the most generous paid family and medical leave program in the entire nation.

We strongly urge the committee to reject yet another burden on our businesses by opposing SB 6668 & SB 1178. Thank you for your time.

Mary P. Fitzgerald